

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-02

DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INT-08 L-03 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /172 W
----- 091971

R 091445Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2396
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ELAB, IS

SUBJ: ABU RODEIS OIL WORKERS STRIKE ENDS

REF: TEL AVIV 2557 (PARA 4)

1. PRESS TODAY REPORTS ABU RODEIS OIL WORKERS
HAVE ENDED SEVEN-DAY WILDCAT STRIKE.

2. HEAD OF HISTADRUT METAL WORKERS UNION, WHICH HAS JURISDICTION
OVER ABU RODEIS OIL WORKERS, CONFIRMED TO LABATT HE HAD BEEN
INFORMED EARLY MORNING MAY 8 THAT WORKERS COMMITTEE HAD VOTED
TO RETURN TO WORK AND WILL RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. ISSUES ARE
COMPLEX BUT REVOLVE AROUND METHOD OF COMPUTING SEVERANCE PAY
SHOULD FIELD BE RETURNED TO EGYPT. WORKERS ARE
DEMANDING PAYMENT FAR IN EXCESS OF NORMAL AMOUNT.

3. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY
HISTADRUT OFFICIAL AND REPS FROM COMPANY (NETEVEI NEFT) AND
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GOVERNMENT. IN EVENT FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE DISPUTE,

WORKERS ACCORDING TO HISTADRUT SOURCE HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD ACCEPT ARBITRATION BY FINMIN SAPIR OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, JUSTICE MINISTER ZADOK.

4. DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE ON LOSS OF PRODUCTION DUE TO STRIKE. PRESS LAST WEEK REPORTED THAT ONLY 18 OF 90 PRODUCING WELLS WERE IN OPERATION ON MAY 2. ACCORDING TO MAARIV MAY 8 NETEVEI NEFT GENMGR GAIRON SAID NORMAL PRODUCTION WOULD RESUME ONLY AFTER SEVERAL DAYS; HE ESTIMATED FINANCIAL LOSS DUE TO STRIKE AS APPROX IL 20 MILLION (AROUND \$4.75 MILLION).

5. COMMENT. AS WE READ SITUATION, WORKERS HAVE LITTLE SYMPATHY AMONG PUBLIC, WHICH READ TODAY THAT MONTHLY GROSS PAY AVERAGES IL3,000, PLUS FOOD AND FREE TRANSPORTATION HOME EVERY TEN DAYS. MOREOVER, STRIKE WAS UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO GOVT AS REQUIRED BY LAW AND WITHOUT APPROVAL OF HISTADRUT. CABINET HAD EMPOWERED FINANCE MINISTER TO ISSUE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS IF NECESSARY TO COMPEL WORKERS RETURN TO WORK IN ORDER MAINTAIN PRODUCTION AT SINAI FIELDS. WE THEREFORE SUSPECT THAT WORKERS HAVE PROBABLY GONE AS FAR AS THEY CAN PRUDENTLY GO AND WILL NOT RPT NOT CURTAIL PRODUCTION AT ABU RODEIS AGAIN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, OIL FIELDS, FIRES, GENERAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV02616
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740113-0635
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740559/aaaacbca.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 2557 (PARA 4)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABU RODEIS OIL WORKERS STRIKE ENDS
TAGS: ENRG, ELAB, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005